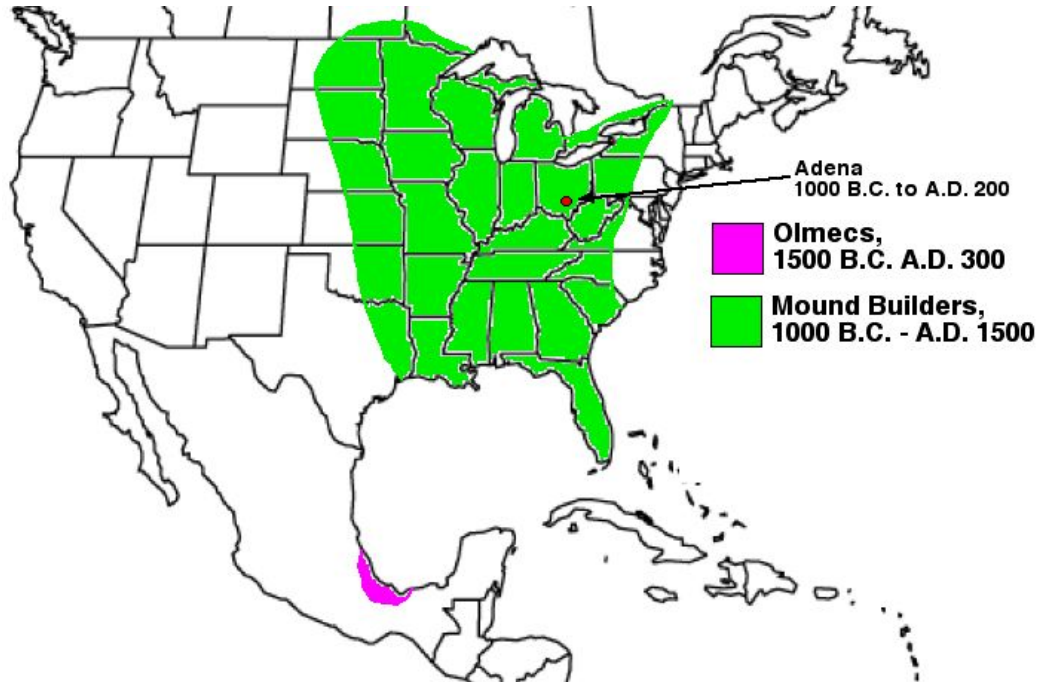


Adena Mound Builders

The Adena people lived in the Ohio River valley in the eastern half of what is now the United States from about 1000 B.C.E. to 200 C.E. The Adena were one of the culture groups known as the Mound Builders. They did some farming, but were hunters and gatherers. Their land was rich with fish, game, nuts, and berries.



The **Adena** were the **first** of the three **Mound Building Civilizations**. They lived in the **Ohio River Valley**.

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The Adena are known for their pottery, artistic works and extensive trading network, which supplied them with a variety of raw materials, ranging from copper from the Great Lakes to shells from the Gulf Coast.

Unit 1 A New World Rising
Grade 5 Social Studies/ELA Curriculum
Lesson 1: Early Peoples of the Americas: Migration Routes and Settlement



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The Adenas were called “Mound Builders” because they built earth mounds called earthworks. The mounds were already built by the 15th Century, when the Spanish explorers arrived. One of the most famous Adena earthworks is Serpent Mound located near what is today Cincinnati, Ohio. It is 5 feet high, 20 feet across, and 1330 feet long and over 2,000 years old. It is formed in the shape of a snake. The mouth of the snake is open and it looks like it is swallowing something.



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The Adena also built small burial mounds.



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Some respected people in the group had a special status. For them they had a burial ceremony to prepare the body's spirit for the afterlife. First they covered the body with red paint. The Adena believed the red paint, representing blood and life, allowed the person's spirit to live after death. Then they laid the painted body on a bed of bark strips on the floor of a burial house. To help the dead enjoy life after death, the Adena placed jewelry, clay pipes, beads, and other useful objects around the body. Finally, they set the burial house on fire. After the house burned down, the Adena covered the ashes with earth. Over time, more people were buried on the same mound. The burial mound grew higher over the years. Other people were buried simply or cremated and their ashes placed in clay pots.

Based on http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/cunniff/americanhistorycentral/01firstamericans/The_Moundbuild.html